

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05891 230145Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OES-06 INT-05 DLOS-04 SAL-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 /087 W

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R 221255Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5456

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5891

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRAS 0721 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI

INFO BOMBAY/CALCUTTA 22 APR 76.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 721

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IN, TW

SUBJECT: TAIWANESE FISHING TRAWLERS SEIZED

REF: MADRAS 395 OF 1975

1. IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE PRESS APRIL 22 THAT THE INDIAN NAVY ON APRIL 21 HAD INTERCEPTED TWO TAIWANESE FISHING TRAWLERS WHICH HAD INTRUDED INTO THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE BAY OF BENGAL APPROXIMATELY 100 KMS NORTH OF MADRAS AND NEAR THE SRIHARIKOWA ROCKET STATION. THE 100 FT OCEAN-GOING TRAWLERS OF 500 TON CAPACITY EACH (BOTH, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, NAMED "HWA KUO") BEARING NUMBERS 9351 AND 0352 WERE BROUGHT TO MADRAS BY THE INDIAN NAVY PATROL VESSEL, INS ANDAMANS. TWO SIMILAR TAIWANESE TRAWLERS WERE SEIZED BY THE INDIAN NAVY IN THE SAME AREA ON MARCH 31, 1975 WITH A LARGE CATCH OF FISH (SEE REFERENCE).

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 05891 230145Z

2. CAPT. D.B. MOHINDRA, NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE, INDIAN NAVY,

MADRAS, TOLD NEWSMEN APRIL 21 THAT THE TRAWLERS WERE FIRST SPOTTED ON APRIL 20 AFTERNOON BY GOVERNMENT FISHING VESSELS WHICH ALERTED HIS OFFICE. THE INS ANDAMANS RUSHED TO THE SCENE AND SEIZED THE TRAWLERS. THE FORTY CREW MEMBERS WHO WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY OFFERED NO RESISTANCE.

3. CAPT. MOHINDRA DID NOT "RULE OUT CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY", ADDING THAT "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT, UNDER THE GUISE OF FISHING, THE TRAWLERS MIGHT HAVE TRIED TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE IN VIEW OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE AREA." HE ALSO DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THE TRAWLERS WERE ENGAGING IN SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE TYPE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT OR MODERN GADGETS THE TRAWLERS CARRIED WOULD BE KNOWN ONLY AFTER THE NAVY AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS INSPECTED THE VESSELS. (AS A FOOTNOTE, THE AREA WHERE THE TRAWLERS WERE INTERCEPTED ACTUALLY ABOUNDS IN FISH.)
MCCASKILL

UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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